

From: Yogi, David

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 3:12 PM

To: KEENER, BILL; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Lee, Alana; DREYFUS, BETHANY; DIAMOND, JANE; Salyer, Kathleen; Hiett, Richard; Reddy, Penny

Subject: Final Bay Citizen Response

- Indoor air concentrations at the two Google buildings in question exceeded EPA Region 9's MEW-specific TCE action level of 5 micrograms/cubic meter for long-term exposure, yet did not exceed our action level for short-term exposure of 15 micrograms/cubic meter. Approximately one-third of the indoor air samples exceeded EPA's long-term exposure limit of 5 micrograms/cubic meter. Of these, the highest TCE concentration detected was 7.8 micrograms/cubic meter—below EPA's short-term action level of 15 micrograms/cubic meter, when immediate action would be warranted.

Recent findings on TCE conclude that women in the first trimester of pregnancy are the most sensitive population to TCE exposure. Studies show that at levels higher than 5 micrograms/cubic meter, the potential risk to fetal health increases. While EPA cannot verify how many employees were in the Google buildings in question, we encourage women who are concerned about potential exposure to contaminants at the site to speak with their obstetrician or pediatrician. In addition, EPA toxicologists are available to speak with these physicians about the toxicity of TCE and the characteristics of hazardous substances at the MEW Superfund site.

Five micrograms/cubic meter is a level which EPA considers protective for both short-term and long-term exposure in a commercial setting. Like any other toxic chemical, the effects of TCE on human health depend on: the general health, age, and lifestyle of the person; how much a person is exposed to TCE (amount, concentration); how long a person is exposed (exposure time, duration); and how often a person is exposed (frequency of exposure).

Moving forward, Region 9 is refining its procedure for applying the evolving science of TCE to commercial workplaces. Now, EPA will take a more aggressive approach to ensure prompt action to reduce levels that range between 5 and 15 micrograms/cubic meter. To accomplish this, we will be requiring a rapid turnaround timeframe for sampling results, as opposed to the standard two-week timeframe. If the building samples exceed 5 micrograms/cubic meter, mitigation will now be required within 2-4 weeks.

Further, EPA will set up a notification process for property owners and employers, whose commercial buildings may be affected by vapor intrusion. One mechanism to ensure the public, including workers, receives information about all relevant site activities is through a new webpage. This will host information about building sampling, fact sheets, other site activities, and contact information. Our webpage is currently under development and will be launched in the upcoming few weeks. This new page should serve as a resource for employees, employers, and the general public to get up-to-date site information.

“Everyone who works or lives near the MEW Superfund site should have access to clear and timely information about the contaminants at the site,” said Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “EPA has required tens of millions of dollars to be spent on cleaning up this Superfund site, and we will remain vigilant until the work is done.”

- David



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